REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

By the foregoing amendments, it is proposed under 37 CFR 1.116 that the term "single" be deleted from claim 1, while claim 6 is to be recast in independent form by incorporating therein the statements and all limitations of claims 1 and 5 from which it depends. Such proposed amendments to claims 1 and 6 were suggested in the Final Office action indicating: (a) on page 2 that the term "single" added by previous amendment to claim 1 should be deleted because it, "is not positively recited in the specification, and (b) on page 3 that claim 6 together with claims 7, 8 and 9 dependent therefrom would be allowable when claim 6 is rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, entry of the proposed amendments adopting such suggestions and withdrawal of the objection to the specification is expected together with an official allowance of claims 1-6.

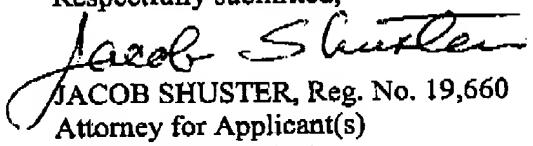
In regard to claims 1-5, they stand finally rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as stated on page 3 of the Final Office action. Also according to page 4 in the Final Office action, the Williamson patent of record is dropped from the prior rejection of claim 1. As to claim 1, the only stated basis for its final rejection is set forth on page 3 as: "Claim 1 is rejected--over Kowalski--applied for the same reasons set forth at pages 2-3 of the previous Office action". As to claims 2-5, the only stated basis for final rejection thereof is set forth as: "Claims 2-5 as rejected--as being unpatentable over Kowalski as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Miller--applied for the same reasons as set forth at page 3 of the previous office action".

In regard to the Kowalski patent an explicit explanation as to its irrelevancy to claims 1-5 was set forth on page 7 of the Remarks accompanying the previous amendment dated July 29, 2003. The only reason indicated in the Final Office action for disputing such remarks of record is an erroneous interpretation of claim terminology, involving the meaning of "comprising:--a

flash chamber" that is inapplicable to other claim distinctions as pointed out by applicant. As to the relevancy of the Miller patent, for the first time speculation is improperly resorted to by reference to pressure reduction extent of some unidentified distillation device.

In view of the foregoing, the Examiner is urged to avoid an appeal with respect to claims 1-5 that would be limited to issues as set forth in the current Final Office action to the exclusion of subsequently presented new issues involving claim language interpretation and relevancy speculation in regard to the Miller patent. Accordingly, an allowance of claims 1-5 together with allowed claim 6-9 is believed to be in order if prosecution is not reopened before the appeal deadline of March 5, 2004.

Respectfully submitted,



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